143006-14

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A blocked mercaptosilane selected from the group consisting of:

$$[[(ROC(-O))_p-(G)_j]_k-Y-S]_r-G-(SiX_3)_s$$

(1); and

$$[(X_3Si)_q-G]_2-[Y-[S-G-SiX_3]_b]_c$$

(2)

wherein

i) for structures (1) and (2). Y is a polyvalent species (Q)₂A(=E) selected from the group consisting of -C(=NR)-; -SC(=NR)-; -SC(=O)-; -S(=O)-; -S(=O)-; -S(=O)-; -S(=O)-; -SS(=O)-; -SS(=O)-; -SS(=O)-; -SS(=O)-; -SS(=O)-; -SS(=O)-; -SS(=O)-; -SS(=O)-; -SP(=O)-; -SP(=S)-; -

ii) for structure (1), Y is a polyvalent species (O), A(=E) selected from the group consisting of -(-S)P(=O)-; -P(=O)(-)2; -(-S)P(=S)-; -P(=S)(-)2; -(-O)P(=O)-; and -(-O)P(=S)-;

wherein the atom A, attached to unsaturated heteroatom E is attached to the sulfur which in turn is linked via a group G to the silicon atom;

cach R is chosen independently from hydrogen, straight, cyclic, or branched alkyl that may or may not contain unsaturation, alkenyl groups, aryl groups, and aralkyl groups, with each R containing from 1 to 18 carbon atoms;

each G is independently a monovalent or polyvalent group derived by substitution of alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, or aralkyl wherein G can contain from 1 to 18 carbon atoms, and if G is univalent, G can be a hydrogen atom; X is independently selected from the group